

Happy New Year



On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com Website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Wednesday, December 29, 2010

EU anarchists grow more violent, coordinated

DEREK GATOPOULOS
NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — A loosely linked movement of European anarchists who want to bring down state and financial institutions is becoming more violent and coordinated after decades out of the spotlight, and may be responding to social tensions spawned by the continent's financial crisis, security experts say. Italian police said Tuesday that letter bombs were sent to three embassies in Rome by Italian anarchists in solidarity with jailed Greek anarchists, who had asked their comrades to organize and coordinate a global "revolutionary war." Identical package bombs exploded at the Swiss and Chilean embassies in Rome on Dec. 23, badly wounding the two people who opened them. A third bomb was safely defused at the Greek Embassy on Monday. "We're striking again, and we do so in response to the appeal launched by our Greek companions," the Italian group known as the Informal Anarchist Federation wrote in a claim of responsibility for the third bomb that was released by police here Tuesday. Extreme left-wing and anarchist movements have existed for decades in Europe — waging deadly attacks across the continent in the 1960s and 1970s that trailed and became sporadic in recent decades.

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Walking in a....

WINTER WONDERLAND



An MTA employee clears snow from the Q train track in the Coney Island neighborhood of the Brooklyn borough of New York, Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2010.

Associated Press
Page A2

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NY struggles to dig out, passengers still stranded



NEW YORK — Hundreds of airline passengers were stranded for up to 10 hours on the tarmac at overworked Kennedy Airport. Ambulances struggled to get patients through unplowed streets. City buses sat abandoned in the snow. The Christmas weekend blizzard proved to be the curse that keeps on giving Tuesday, as confusion and frustration snowballed in New York and the rest of the country. Officials warned it could take until New Year's to rebook all passengers and straighten out the transportation mess created by the storm, which shut down all three of New York's major airports for 24 hours and caused a ripple effect across the U.S.

A high school band from Pennsylvania faced the prospect of marching in the Rose Bowl parade in Pasadena, Calif., with only half its musicians after the storm stranded the rest in Philadelphia. European tourists who planned to fly into New York found themselves in Chicago when their flights were diverted. Travelers as far away as San Francisco were marooned, even though they were headed nowhere near the Northeast. New York's airports struggled to get planes in and out. But some jetliners couldn't even get to the gate. At Kennedy, a British Airways plane from London carrying 300 passengers waited five hours for an open gate, and

then two more hours for customs to open, said John Lampl, a spokesman for the airline. A Cathay Pacific flight that had been diverted to Toronto spent 10 hours on the tarmac, and a second Cathay Pacific plane with 250 people was still on the runway after eight hours as of Tuesday afternoon.

Passenger Abi Subramanian, 38, said supplies on the plane were running low and he was worried about his wife and 2-month-old daughter.

"We're going to be in trouble very shortly. There's no food left for her," he told The Associated Press by cell phone.

Airlines were dispatching planes to the airport without lining up gate space first, causing backups on the ground, said Steve Coleman, a spokesman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates Kennedy.

Cathay Pacific spokesman Gus Whitcomb said the planes had taken off under the assumption that they would have somewhere to go upon landing. In general, U.S. airlines operating domestic flights are not allowed to keep passengers waiting on the tarmac for more than three hours. But the rule

does not apply to international flights or foreign airlines.

The chaos was also reflected in New York's streets, where hundreds of abandoned city buses and dozens of ambulances still sat in the middle of snowdrifts from the storm, which clobbered the city with up to 2 feet of snow. A video that instantly went viral on the Internet showed city crews accidentally smashing a parked car as they tried to free a city construction vehicle.

Officials predicted streets would not be clear until Wednesday, a day later than they first promised.

"And even then I'm not so sure," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said.

Brooklyn resident Annie O'Daly waited more than 30 hours for help after falling and breaking her ankle Sunday night at around 8 p.m., said Jim Leonhardt, her husband. An ambulance didn't arrive until 2:30 a.m. Tuesday. Leonhardt had to help paramedics carry her out onto the unplowed street and over a snowbank. Officials pleaded with private companies to help out, and the city converted various vehicles in its fleet into snowplows, including trucks typically used for cleaning graffiti.

"It's a bad situation and we're working together to correct it," Bloomberg said.

Some 1,000 vehicles had been removed from three major New York City-area expressways alone, the mayor said. In New Jersey, police in helicopters counted at least 60 vehicles stranded along a highway at the shore. Motorists were taken in National Guard Humvees and other vehicles to shelters.

In Asbury Park, N.J., a commuter train hit a tractor-trailer that got stuck at a railroad crossing. The driver had left the truck and no injuries were reported.

More than 5,000 flights had been canceled since Sunday night at all three New York-area airports, about 1,000 of them on Tuesday alone.

Adriana Siqueira, 38, a housekeeper from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., was told she and her 10-year-old daughter cannot get home from New York's LaGuardia until New Year's Day. They had already spent one night in the terminal and couldn't afford a hotel.

"I have no idea what I'm going to do," Siqueira said. "I don't feel good."

The delays and cancellations were having a domino effect around the country. □



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Jimmy Carter helps release loggerhead sea turtle

MARATHON, Fla. — Jimmy Carter has helped release a rehabilitated loggerhead sea turtle during a family vacation in the Florida Keys. The former president participated in the release of Danger, a 102-pound loggerhead turtle, into the Atlantic Ocean on Tuesday. The turtle had spent three months at The Turtle Hospital. Carter also toured the facility, which is dedicated to treating and rehabilitating sea

turtles.

Carter is in the Keys with wife Rosalynn and a number of family members as part of a holiday respite. The vacation in the Keys is not the first for Carter and his family. In 1996, the family had a New Year's Eve dinner at the Harry S. Truman Little White House in Key West and returned there for a visit in December 2007 while on a cruise ship. □



Children were injured on Maine ski lift

CARRABASSETT VALLEY, Maine — A 35-year-old chair lift set for improvements failed Tuesday at a popular Maine resort, sending skiers some of them children plummeting into ungroomed snow far below that fell with the Northeast's recent blizzard and softened the landing.

At least eight people, the children among them, were taken to a hospital after the double-chair lift at Sugarloaf derailed during a busy vacation week at the resort 120 miles north of Portland. The resort said the lift, which went into service in 1975 and recently passed an inspection, was set for upgrades or repairs but declined to specify when. About five chairs fell 25 to 30 feet onto a ski trail below, officials said.

Rebecca London, one of the skiers who tumbled to the snow, told The Associated Press that her face hit a retaining bar, but that her goggles spared her from serious injury. She credited new snow underneath the lift with a soft landing; the resort said it got 20 to 22 inches in Monday's storm.

"Thankfully, they didn't groom it last night, so they left it like it was," she said.



"So the snow was all soft."

Most of the skiers who fell appeared to be stunned but OK, she said, and the ski patrol was on the scene within minutes treat the injured. London, 20, of Carrabassett Valley, said she wasn't hurt badly enough to go to a hospital.

Jay Marshall, a ski coach who hunkered down in a cold wind while on a lift next to the broken one, said that his lift was moving but that the broken one was not.

There was a "loud snapping noise" after the lift restarted, he said, then some screams.

"The next thing I know, it was bouncing up and down like a yo-yo," said Marshall, of Carrabassett Valley. He said it was too difficult to watch, so he looked away. "It was terrifying," he said.

There could have been as few as 50 people or as many as 160 on the lift at the time, according to Sugarloaf, owned

by Boyne Falls, Mich.-based Boyne Resorts. Sugarloaf workers used a pulley-like system to lower skiers to safety.

Jill Gray, a spokeswoman for Franklin Memorial Hospital about in Farmington, 45 miles away, said eight adults and children were taken there but did not give details on the injuries. One of the injured was flown on to Maine Medical Center in Portland, she said.

At the time of the accident, high winds were buffeting Maine a day after a blizzard swept across the region.

Sugarloaf said the wind was gusting to about 40 mph, but it's unclear whether the accident was wind-related or mechanical.

Because of its position on the face of the mountain, the lift that failed is more vulnerable to being shut down because of high winds, said Ethan Austin, Sugarloaf spokesman. □

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8 killed in fire in abandoned New Orleans building

NEW ORLEANS — The deadliest city blaze in decades killed eight homeless squatters who were burning debris in an abandoned warehouse to stay warm Tuesday, authorities said.

Firefighters said they could not tell the ages or genders of those who died because their bodies were so badly burned. A 23-year-old man who escaped told the American Red Cross he could not get back in to help his friends because of the smoke, agency volunteer Thomas Butler said. Temperatures were just below freezing, not unheard of but unusually cold for New Orleans. The warehouse is in

a blighted city neighborhood left even more so by the flooding that followed Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Agencies that work with the homeless said they believe some or all the victims were in their late teens or early 20s. Linda Gonzales, of the New Orleans Mission, said homeless young adults and teenagers often avoid shelters for a variety of reasons.

“Some of them choose to stay out and you can’t make them come in,” she said.

Fire Department spokesman Greg Davis said the blaze was reported just before 2 a.m. and fire trucks arrived within five minutes to find the building



completely engulfed in flames. Some of the victims may have been rendered unconscious by carbon monoxide, a danger with indoor fires. All that was left of the warehouse, which sat amid graffiti-covered rail cars and ramshackle buildings, was the blackened foundation and a partial shell of singed corrugated metal. Nearby, inhabited wood-frame houses, some with Christmas decorations, are interspersed with boarded-up homes with holes in the roofs. The city has more than 55,000 such blighted properties, according to current estimates.

A 22-year-old woman who

was not in the warehouse when the fire started told the Red Cross she was one of several squatters who had been using the building for shelter.

Three young people who watched from across the street as firefighters searched for additional victims with dogs said they knew those died, but they would not say more.

Capt. Edwin Holmes said it was among the deadliest fires in the modern history of the New Orleans Fire Department, and the worst since 32 died in a fire at a French Quarter lounge in 1973.

Homelessness has always been

a problem in New Orleans, but it has gotten worse since Katrina. Gonzales estimates as many as 3,000 people with nowhere to go may be on the streets on any given night. Shelters only have about 800 beds available, she said, though the city works with them to provide more when temperatures hover near or below freezing.

Still, said resident Ricky Gordon, many homeless people show up in the neighborhood when it’s cold rather than taking advantage of available social services.

“I took one guy in last night myself,” he said. □



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Rep Davis to Clinton: Stay out of Chicago politics

CHICAGO — Congressman Danny Davis has a message for former President Bill Clinton: Don't take sides in the Chicago mayor's race or else.

Davis, a longtime friend of Clinton, warned the ex-president on Tuesday that he could jeopardize his "long and fruitful relationship" with the black community if he campaigns for former White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel instead of one of the two leading black candidates running Davis or former Sen. Carol Moseley Braun.

The warning highlights the stakes in what is gearing up to be a contentious race for mayor in the nation's third-largest city. About a dozen people have made it on to the ballot to replace retiring Mayor Richard M. Daley, who is bowing out after more than 20 years in office, giving candidates their first real shot at Chicago's top job for the first time in two decades.

In a news release, Davis, a Democrat from Chicago's West Side, said Clinton's relationship with the black community may be "fractured and perhaps even broken" if he comes to town to stump for Emanuel, who moved back to Chicago this fall to run for

mayor and is leading in the polls.

Davis later told The Associated Press that he intended the news release to be a personal appeal to Clinton, friend to friend.

"You just wouldn't want your friends to be campaigning against you," Davis said with a laugh. "I've enjoyed a great friendship and relationship and have a tremendous amount of affinity for both the Clintons ... and I'd like to keep it that way."

"I want him to be neutral," Davis said of the former president.

Emanuel's campaign recently announced that Clinton was going to head a campaign event in January, but no date or time has been announced. Campaign spokesman Ben LaBolt declined to comment on Davis' statement, and messages left with Clinton's foundation weren't immediately returned on Tuesday.

Blacks make up 35 percent of Chicago's population, a key voting bloc that has the potential to doom or elevate a candidate. A recent Chicago Tribune/WGN poll showed Davis leading Emanuel among black voters, but just barely. Davis was backed by

21 percent of black voters, Emanuel was backed by 19 percent, but 30 percent were undecided. The poll showed Emanuel leading with 30 percent among all voters surveyed.

Emanuel held various positions in Clinton's administration, including senior policy adviser, director of special projects and political director. Davis also has known Clinton for years, and political consultant Delmarie Cobb said Davis was among the first black leaders to support Clinton's presidential campaign before he had widespread name recognition.

"I can see where Danny Davis would be very upset," Cobb said.

Braun, the race's other leading black candidate,



joined the U.S. Senate the same year Clinton became president, and he was always supportive of her, Cobb said. Clinton appointed Braun as ambassador to New Zealand after she lost her Senate re-election bid. Messages left for Braun's campaign

immediately returned. Clinton who Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison once dubbed the country's first black president still enjoys a great deal of support among black voters, and Davis said part of his concern is about Clinton's impact on the mayor's race. □

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New laws may not be on the books for very long



MADISON, Wis. — This January, the statutes will kick in just as freshly elected governors and legislators arrive for work. And if new GOP majorities succeed in getting legislation repealed, the result may be sudden U-turns on issues that were

only recently debated.

Before the November election, Democrats controlled legislatures in 27 states, with Republicans in charge of just 14. But after the nationwide Republican sweep, the GOP will soon control 26, the Democrats only 17. Control of others is split between the parties. The election also increased the number of Republican governors from 23 to 26.

With the switch in party control could come abrupt changes in the way some states handle government regulation, privatization and other matters.

Nowhere was the political shift more dramatic than in Wisconsin, where power in the Statehouse will shift wholesale from Democrats to Republicans. Already, incoming Republican Gov. Scott Walker and others would like to head off a law that makes it tougher for payday loan companies and auto lenders to do business in the state.

Until Democrats pushed the law through the Senate and House in 2010, Wisconsin was the only state that did not regulate those industries, and consumer advocates complained that lenders were exploiting poor people by charging exorbitant interest rates.

Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle shepherded the bill into law. But Walker said the new regulations go too far, and that the outright ban on loans secured by an auto title isn't what many legislators want. "My hope is we're able to go back to that common-sense middle ground" with lesser restrictions, said

Republican state Rep. Robin Vos, co-chairman of the budget committee. The new law limits payday loans to a maximum of \$1,500.

In New Hampshire, Republicans hope to shoot down a new gun law they say doesn't do enough to protect private property and gun owners' rights. Republicans captured the legislative majority from Democrats in the midterm election.

In the recent session, lawmakers gave residents the right to display a gun or other weapon to warn away a potential attacker. Republicans plan to replace it with a stronger version that was vetoed by Democratic Gov. John Lynch in 2006. The tougher law would allow gun owners to use deadly force when threatened, inside their home or anywhere else.

"Why should I have to run away?" said Republican state Sen. Jack Barnes, who said residents who feel threatened should be able to use whatever force necessary. "It's my house." In a switch benefitting the Democrats, incoming Gov. Jerry Brown in California may undo part of his Republican predecessor's legacy on privatization.

Brown could stop the controversial sale of 11 state buildings including the Ronald Reagan building in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Civic Center for \$2.3 billion. Outgoing Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger sought the sale to help balance the state's budget. As the state attorney general, Brown declined to defend the

measure in court and asked that it be delayed. A court-ordered delay means the issue will be pending when Brown takes office Jan. 3.

A variety of other laws will take effect without any threat of repeal.

Alabama, which had fewer public ethics regulations than other states, will add new measures stemming from a major government corruption scandal that brought down Birmingham's mayor, Alabama's former junior college chancellor and three legislators. The new laws impose more restrictions on lobbyists and provide subpoena powers to the State Ethics Commission.

While other states have increased "sin taxes" and fees, Massachusetts will remove a 6.25 percent sales tax on alcohol in effect since August 2009. The repeal followed a major advertising campaign by liquor store owners and beer distributors. California will try to rein in its rampant paparazzi. New laws dictate that those caught driving recklessly while chasing celebrities in the state can now be charged with a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and a \$2,500 fine. Previously they were charged with a lesser infraction. The state will also downgrade marijuana possession from a misdemeanor to an infraction requiring no court appearance.

Delaware, Kentucky and Kansas will join many other states adopting tougher laws regulating cell phone use while driving. □

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Aruba Forecast issuance changes

ORANJSTAD - The public weather forecast for all islands of the Dutch Kingdom will be issued three times a day and the format of these bulletins will also have a slightly different appearance. The forecast bulletins for both the ABC Islands and the SSS Islands will now have the same look. The issuance times for both bulletins will be at 6 A.M., 12 P.M. and 6 P.M. The forecasts will be valid through respectively 6 A.M., 12 P.M. and 6 P.M. of the next day. Both bulletins will indicate the period of validity and the update time at the top of the page, followed by the forecast weather. Watches or warnings will be announced through a lead sentence which will appear just above the "Weather" section. This section will now also include the forecast high and low temperature and the times of sunrise and sunset during the forecast period.

The next section shows the forecast surface winds and it is followed by respectively the Synopsis, Sea Conditions, Special Features, Further Outlook sections and finally the forecaster's name. During the hurricane season (June 1 through November 30) a "Tropical Weather Systems" section will be added which contains some information about active tropical cyclones and/or tropical waves in the Atlantic Basin, which may become of significance to our islands. The "Special Features" section will contain information about for instance volcanic ash clouds which are of interest to our islands, earthquakes which were observed on our islands and upcoming solar or lunar eclipses. In case of the sudden threat of severe weather or hazardous sea conditions, a Special Bulletin will be issued which will contain information about or watches or warnings for heavy rain and lightning, strong winds, funnel clouds, rough seas and information on possible tsunamis. In case of the threat of tropical cyclones, the already existing warning system for tropical storms and hurricanes will be applied. □

Magnificent Firework Show At Midnight And Tsunami Band

Marriott Opens 2011 On The Beach "Under The Stars"



PALM BEACH - Aruba beach party "Under the Stars" at Tradewinds Beach. The festivities start at 10:00 pm until 1:00 am with a spectacular firework show at midnight and live entertainment provided

by popular Aruban band Tsunami.

After last years' successful beach party, the Marriott strives to an even bigger event this year with an amazing light show by Elite Productions, decorations by Every Events & Flortiek by Wilson and an exclusive champagne bar and cash bar.

Entrance fee to this smashing beach party is \$15.00 and tickets are available in the lobby of the Aruba Marriott Resort daily from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Doors for the event open at 9:00 pm. Limited seating areas are available, therefore recommendable to come early to the beach party for the best seats on Tradewinds Beach.

Get your tickets for Marriott's spectacular "Under the Stars" New Years Eve party and celebrate 2011 in style. The Aruba Marriott banquets staff looks forward to see you this New Years Eve to toast to the New Year.

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms - the most spacious on the island - each with large, private balconies overlooking the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool with cascading waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions. Luxury hotel-within-a-hotel Tradewinds Club is the newest addition to this beachfront resort. □

Marvelous and Exceptional Louis Vuitton Diwali event



ORANJESTAD - Louis Vuitton celebrated Diwali in its global network of stores and on Dec 16th this also included the store in Aruba. The store was nicely decorated with elegant displays of traditional Hindu motifs in celebration of Diwali, the Indian Festival of Lights. For Louis Vuitton a Masion deeply steeped in values of transmitting heritage and traditions, Diwali was a wonderful occasion to share its values with its loyal guests in Aruba too.

This was the very first time that Louis Vuitton celebrated one single common festival on this scale. The decision to celebrate Diwali, the most joyous and vibrant Hindu Festival, in all its stores across the world, was taken to specifically- honor the common values that Louis Vuitton shares with India, the respect for tradition and the passion for innovation. The world leader in luxury, Louis Vuitton has been synonymous with the art of stylish travel since 1854.

Since 1997, with the arrival of designer Marc Jacobs, it has expanded its expertise to women's and men's ready-to-wear, shoes, watches and jewellery, combining traditional craftsmanship with flair and innovation to create a complete lifestyle experience. Since 1987, it has been part of LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, the world's largest and most prestigious luxury goods group, founded by Bernard Arnault. More information on www.louisvuitton.com

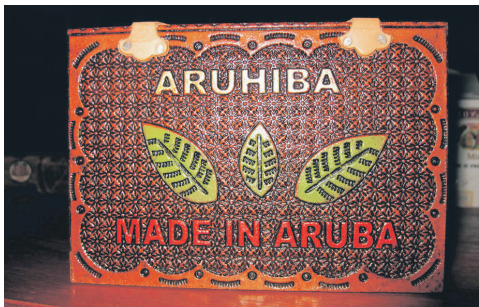
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five



cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open from Monday to Saturday from 9am till 8:30pm. And open on Sunday from 9am to 1pm. At the Tamarijn Hotel open on Monday till Saturday 12pm to 8pm. And on Sunday from 9am to 1pm . Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



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And Don't Miss the Special Shows



ORANJESTAD - hat a surprise!!! This old warehouse transformed into a typical Spanish or Italian town's square, with its gurgling fountain, French lamp-post and lime-washed walls features an open Pizza Atelier, under a small country hut, covered with old hand-made roof tiles. Opened downtown Oranjestad two years ago, the restaurant dishes reflect this inter-cultural relationship of Spanish, French and Italian cuisine,

all served in a friendly, casual setting. On the menu, a wide variety of Spanish Tapas, appetizers starting at \$2.95, and plentiful Paellas, made daily, filled with mussels, clams, shrimp, pork loin and chicken. The menu also boats famous Pata Negra ham, Chorizo, and other specialty dry-cured pork sausage. Naturally, the restaurant's whole Grilled Red Snapper, fresh fish fillets and beef tenderloins are all cooked "A la Plancha," with just a sprinkle of olive oil, representing a healthy Mediterranean life-style. Thanks to Aram Belda , a native from Valencia (Spain) and chef at Casa Tua Barcelona. Patrons also favor the restaurant irresistible thin-crust pizza, baked according to a secret family recipe, topped with Casa Tua infused spicy olive oil, a signature condiment for Casa Tua restaurants on the Island. To complete this Spanish experience and make it truly unforgettable, La Tita, a local flamenco bailarina will perform this Wednesday from 8pm . Special food combos are available for lunch weekdays, starting at \$8.95 p/p. Birthday parties? Wedding Rehearsal Dinners? Family Reunions, we love those, and always take very good care of our guests!☐



TIME TO GIVE



Written by Ruthy "Lady Ruth" Vrieswijk-Bergen.

It's the most wonderful time of the year and we love to give during this time of the year.

We give love, we give a listening ear, we give money or a gift.

Permit me, Ruthy, known as "Lady Ruth the Poet" to give through these words my love, respect and appreciation to a dynamic inspired woman.

She's an artist doing paintings on silk and on canvas. And

she is known now also for running her restaurant in Savaneta, a place close to the sea called "The Old Man and the Sea".

From a local to a local with respect for all other restaurant owners, I just want to share, that this unique restaurant is oh so peaceful, artistically decorated with personal touches that touches the heart and the soul. You can see and feel the ocean's breathing. A night under the stars. A night

to remember.

Owner Mrs. Osyth Henriquez is known as the beautiful mother of two sons, Brian and Jonathan Vieira, both well known to play the piano fantastically. My husband Johan and I just celebrated our 33rd wedding anniversary with the high lite a dinner at "The Old Man and the Sea" and it made a big a huge impression on us. Excellent food, excellent service, nice people, nice soft background music instead of all the noisy merengues and salsa. The place is so peaceful.

They take their time to serve you with quality food, so if you're in a hurry, you will not feel at home. We are known on our "One happy island" to take it easy, take our time and not to rush. Thank you for the space given to this article and thank you all for reading it with an open heart and open mind. I recommend this unique restaurant from the bottom of my heart, as I used to do so when I was working with the Aruba Beach Club and Casa del Mar years ago and was asked by many tourists which restaurants were good.

I'm still meeting repeated guests, tourists friends from the USA especially, in the supermarkets of Aruba. From me to you "A blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year 2011". And thank you for choosing our little one happy island as your home away from home !!
God bless !!!

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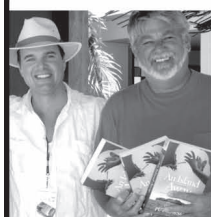
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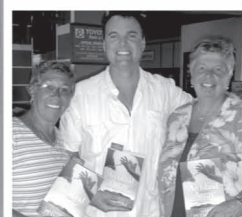
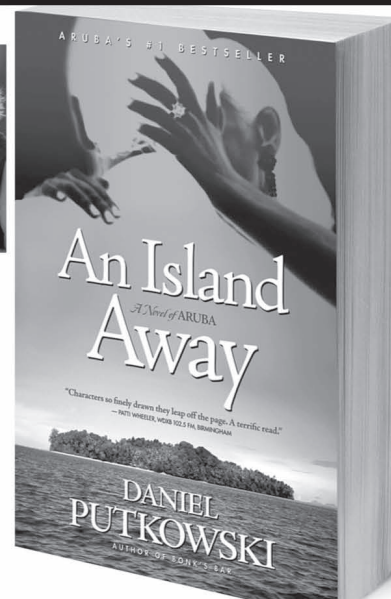
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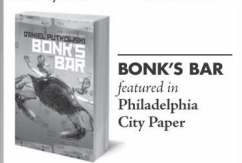
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Boderie Medical Practice celebrates at Aqua Grill



PALM BEACH - Aruba's critically-praised seafood restaurant has enjoyed a fantastic holiday season, with the staff and management thrilled to be the restaurant of choice for many local company and organization holiday celebrations.

Chef Scott Scheuerman and his culinary team put together several special menu packages to accommodate groups large and small over this holiday season, and Aqua Grill's event coordinators were there to assist in any special arrangements or requests to personalize each event.

Pictured here is the staff from the Boderie Medical Practice enjoying dinner on the mezzanine of Aqua Grill. To book your next event or celebration, or to simply make reservations at the island's premier seafood restaurant. Aqua Grill is open nightly, and is located in the heart of Palm Beach, next to Amazonia Churrascaria. □

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HUMAN HINTS

Phase 2 Of The Human Game

Yesterday we discussed Phase 1 of the Human Game, where our expanded self designs our experiences to make us believe that we're the opposite of who we really are. As soon as we become aware of the game and begin to use specific tools with the intention of self-empowerment and expansion, we move into Phase 2.

In Phase 2, our intention changes, as both the limited player and expanded self. In Phase 2, our expanded self designs our experiences in order to provide us with opportunities to expand past the limitation we believed in Phase 1. In Phase 2, we reclaim our power from the illusions that make us feel powerless.

Phase 2 is the opposite of Phase 1. Phase 1 is designed for limitation. It brings us as far from our True Selves as possible. Phase 2 is designed for expansion. It brings us closer to our True Infinite Selves. Phase 1 is the Bizarro world, where everything is designed to convince you of the opposite of the Truth.

Expanded Self designs Phase 1 as a dangerous, uncertain, fearful place. In Phase 2, we the Players know that the illusion is not real, and is created purposefully by our expanded self. We begin to feel safe and secure, knowing that an illusion can't hurt us because it's not real, and that we're literally immersed within our selves. Immersed in our own Consciousness, we can encounter only our own consciousness. When we feel safe, we relax and stop resisting the experiences we create. We let the Game play out, knowing that no harm can befall us because it's our own specific, intentional creation and it's not real.

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you chose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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Who Owns the Future?

“That speaks about who is going to be leading tomorrow.”

So said Angel Gurria, secretary-general of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Every three years, the Paris-based OECD holds its Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) tests of the reading, math and science skills of 15-year-olds in developing and developed countries. Gurria was talking of the results of the 2009 tests.

Sixty-five nations competed. The Chinese swept the board.

The schools of Shanghai-China finished first in math, reading and science. Hong Kong-China was third in math and science. Singapore, a city-state dominated by overseas Chinese, was second in math, fourth in science.

Only Korea, Japan and Finland were in the hunt.

And the U.S.A.? America ranked 14th in reading, 17th in science and 25th in math, producing the familiar quack-quack.

“This is an absolute wake-up call for America,” said Education Secretary Arne Duncan. “We have to face the brutal truth. We have to get much more serious about investment in education.”

But the “brutal truth” is that we invest more per pupil than any other country save Luxembourg, and we are broke. And a closer look at the PISA scores reveals some unacknowledged truths.

True, East Asians Chinese, Koreans, Japanese are turning in the top scores in all three categories, followed by the Europeans, Canadians, Australians and New Zealanders. But, looking down the New York Times list of the top 30 nations, one finds not a single Latin American nation, not a single African nation, not a single Muslim nation, not a single South or Southeast Asian nation (save Singapore), not a single nation of the old Soviet Union except Latvia and Estonia.

And in Europe as in Asia, the northern countries (Finland, Norway, Belgium, Iceland, Austria, Germany) outscore the southern (Greece, Italy, Portugal). Slovenia and Croatia, formerly of the Habsburg Empire, outperformed Albania and Serbia, which spent centuries under Turkish rule.

Among the OECD members, the most developed 34 nations on earth, Mexico, principal feeder nation for U.S. schools, came in dead last in reading.

Steve Sailer of VDARE.com got the full list of 65 nations, broke down U.S. reading scores by race, then measured Americans with the countries and continents whence their families originated. What he found was surprising.

Asian-Americans outperform all Asian students except for Shanghai-Chinese. White Americans outperform students from all 37 predominantly white nations except Finns, and U.S. Hispanics outperformed the students of all eight Latin American countries that participated in the tests.

African-American kids would have outscored the students of any sub-Saharan African country that took the test (none did) and did outperform the only black country to participate, Trinidad and Tobago, by 25 points. America's public schools, then, are not abject failures.

They are educating immigrants and their descendants to outperform the kinfolk their parents or ancestors left behind when they came to America. America's schools are improving the academic performance of all Americans above what it would have been had they not come to America.

What American schools are failing at, despite the trillions poured into schools since the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act, is closing the racial divide.

We do not know how to close the gap in reading, science and math between Anglo and Asian students and black and Hispanic students.

And from the PISA tests, neither does any other country on earth.

The gap between the test scores of East Asian and European nations and those of Latin America and African nations mirrors the gap between Asian and white students in the U.S. and black and Hispanic students in the U.S.

Which brings us to “Bad Students, Not Bad Schools,” a new book in which Dr. Robert Weissberg contends that U.S. educational experts deliberately “refuse to confront the obvious truth.”


“America's educational woes reflect our demographic mix of students. Today's schools are filled with millions of youngsters, many of whom are Hispanic immigrants struggling with English plus millions of others of mediocre intellectual ability disdaining academic achievement.”

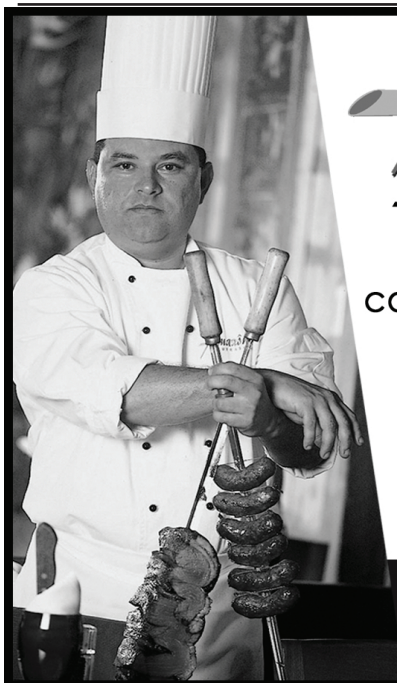
In the public and parochial schools of the 1940s and 1950s, kids were pushed to the limits of their ability, then pushed harder. And when they stopped learning, they were pushed out the door.

Writes Weissberg: “To be grossly politically incorrect, most of America's educational woes vanish if these indifferent, troublesome students left when they had absorbed as much as they were going to learn and were replaced by learning-hungry students from Korea, Japan, India, Russia, Africa and the Caribbean.”

Weissberg contends that 80 percent of a school's success depends on two factors: the cognitive ability of the child and the disposition he brings to class not on texts, teachers or classroom size.

If the brains and the will to learn are absent, no amount of spending on schools, teacher salaries, educational consultants or new texts will matter.

A nation weary of wasting billions on unctuous educators who never deliver what they promise may be ready to hear some hard truths. 



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U.S. can't seal Afghan-Pakistan border: commander

ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — There's no practical way for U.S. troops to seal Afghanistan's vast border with Pakistan and stop all Taliban fighters from slipping through, so they are focusing on defending vulnerable towns and fighting insurgents on Afghan soil, a U.S. military commander said Tuesday. Army Col. Viet Luong said that "to secure the border in the traditional sense" would "take an inordinate amount of resources." He said it also would require far more cooperation from the tribes inside Pakistan who often provide Taliban fighters safe passage.

Other senior U.S. military officials have said they hope the Pakistan military does more to shut down Taliban hideouts. But the U.S. has denied reports that American forces are pushing to expand special operations raids inside Pakistan's tribal areas to target militants.

"It's naive to say that we can stop ... forces coming through the border," said Luong, who oversees troops in a part of eastern Afghanistan that includes the volatile Khost province and 162 miles of border. Instead, Luong said, he is

choosing to fight insurgents outside Afghan villages where they are more vulnerable anyway.

Luong said troops under his command are still working to control the border. But he recently shut down one platoon-sized checkpoint known as "Combat Outpost Spera." Luong said he thought the platoon would be more useful protecting more populated areas.

Khost province has been the site of frequent enemy attacks, including a high-profile suicide bombing at a remote CIA outpost last year. The area's proximity to Pakistan puts it on the front lines of the U.S. fight for control in Afghanistan. Pakistan is host to the Taliban-linked Haqqani network, a militant movement based in its North Waziristan region that carries out operations in Afghanistan.

Luong said he has seen "subtle signs of hope" for Khost after the U.S. and Afghanistan stepped up operations against the Haqqani network. The number of operations and patrols increased four-fold, up to 12,000 in the past year, while the effectiveness of enemy fire has been cut in half, he estimated.

"Local atmospherics are indicating that the people of



Smoke blows from a U.S. vehicle after it hit an explosion during a patrol in Chowkay district near Pakistani border in Kunar province, eastern Afghanistan, Tuesday, Dec 28, 2010.

Associated Press

Khost are beginning to feel that security is much, much better," he said. "And more importantly, for the first time, they're feeling that the provincial government is now working for the people."

Pakistan's government is believed to give the Haqqani group some degree of freedom as a way of securing Islamist support against archrival India. Islamabad also faces other problems, including massive flooding this year and government instability. In the latest sign of trouble, a key party in Pakistan's ruling coalition said it would quit the cabinet on Tuesday. This year has been by far the deadliest in the

nearly 10 years for coalition troops in Afghanistan, with nearly 500 killed. Last year, 504 were killed. 700 killed so far, according to an Associated Press count.

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Last police officer in Mexican border town missing



A Mexican federal police officer is reflected in the window of a car containing a body of a man that died while trying to get to a hospital after he and another man were shot by gunmen in the northern border city of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010. With this incident, the city has reached the 3,000th homicide in 2010, surpassing the homicide count of the last two years.

Associated Press

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — The last remaining police officer in the Mexican border town of Guadalupe has disappeared, and prosecutors in northern Chihuahua state said Tuesday they have started a search for her.

Twenty-eight-year-old officer Ericka Gandara held out despite the desertions and resignations that left her as the only officer in the Juarez Valley town, which was

served by eight police a year ago.

But Gandara hasn't been seen since Dec. 23. While some local media have reported Gandara was kidnapped, prosecutors' spokesman Arturo Sandoval said her relatives have not filed a kidnap complaint.

Sandoval said the search was started Monday as a missing-person case.

The same day she disappeared,

assailants also set fire to the home of a Guadalupe town councilwoman.

The Sinaloa and Juarez drug cartels have been battling for control of the Juarez Valley, leading many residents to flee across the border to Texas or to other Mexican cities.

Most police officers, outgunned by the drug cartels, have resigned and officials say few people are willing to take their place.

The burden of law enforcement has increasingly fallen on a

few women.

In the neighboring town of Praxedis G. Guerrero, a 20-year-old woman was sworn in as police chief in October. The man who previously held that office had been gunned down in July 2009 and the town had been unable to find a replacement for more than a year.

The drug gangs are trying to control the valley's single highway, a lucrative drug trafficking route along the Texas border.

In another northern state, Nuevo Leon, police found the severed head of a federal police officer Tuesday, said Jorge Domene, the state government's security spokesman. The officer's abandoned and bullet-ridden car was found on a highway the previous day. The motive for his killing is unknown.

Nuevo Leon and neighboring Tamaulipas state have been torn by a bloody turf war between the Gulf and Zetas drug gangs. □

ANARCHY

Continued from Front Page

Officials, meanwhile, focused far more intensely on the threat of Islamist terrorism.

But the European Union's police agency, Europol, reported this year that attacks by far-left and anarchist militant groups jumped by 43 percent in 2009 compared to the previous year, and more than doubled over 2007, with most of the incidents in Italy, Spain and Greece. Spain and Greece have been hit particularly hard by government cutbacks and unemployment resulting from a continentwide debt crisis. Italy has also been growing tense in recent months in response to austerity measures and a political duel between Premier Silvio Berlusconi and a former ally that for weeks threatened the government's survival.

Last month, 14 letter bombs were mailed to embassies in Athens by a Greek group that urged stepped-up attacks by anarchists worldwide. Two of the devices exploded, causing no injuries.

"Anarchists-insurrectionists work to try to raise the level of clashes when there are problems" said Marco Boschi, a criminologist who teaches a course on terrorism at the University of Florence and has written about anarchists. "They exploit every occasion."

A Greek group calling itself the Conspiracy Nuclei of Fire claimed responsibility for sending the 14 mail bombs in Athens. Panagiotis Argyros, 22 and Gerasimos Tsakalos, 24, were arrested on Nov. 1 in connection with the mailings and were charged with terrorism-related offenses. At least a dozen suspected members of their group are due to go on trial Jan. 17 for other offenses.

The Conspiracy Nuclei of Fire called on militants around Europe to step up their actions before the trial.

"We will organize internationally and take aim at the enemy. We can't wait to see the subversive elements flooding the streets and the guerrilla groups striking again and again," the group wrote.

But European anarchists are not always in step. The solidarity boasted by the Italian anarchists who targeted the Rome embassies apparently irritated a Greek militant group, whose membership included Lambros Foundas, who was killed in a shootout with police in Athens

earlier this year.

Three imprisoned members of Revolutionary Struggle claimed in a communique Tuesday evening that their group never carries out actions "that would result in the injury of someone, like a random embassy official." The Italian anarchists, in their claim of responsibility for the embassy bombs, said their cell was named after Foundas.

Italian officials have said the Swiss Embassy was targeted by the latest attack in Italy because intensified Swiss-Italian cooperation led to two well-known arrests of anarchists.

Swiss anarchist and environmentalist Marco Camenisch, a hero to many anarchists, was arrested by Italian police in 1991 and imprisoned over the 1989 murder of a Swiss border police officer. After serving nine years in an Italian maximum-security prison, he was extradited in 2002 to Switzerland, where he was later sentenced for the murder.

In April 2010, Swiss police with the help of Italian authorities arrested two men and a woman who idolized Camenisch and were members of an Italian eco-terrorist group. They were suspected of planning to bomb an IBM Corp. research facility near Zurich.

Chile, meanwhile, was targeted because a Chilean anarchist, Mauricio Morales, was killed when a bomb in a backpack he was carrying blew up in Santiago in 2009, Italian officials have said.

Alessandro Ceci of the Center of Superior Studies for the Fight Against Terrorism and Political Violence theorized the Italian anarchists may be trying partly to take advantage of the political climate in Italy: Premier Silvio Berlusconi has seen his parliamentary majority fall and just barely survived a no-confidence vote this month. In addition, protests against university budget cuts turned violent on Dec. 14, thanks in part to anarchist infiltration of student demonstrators.

"If I were an Italian (police) investigator, I'd be worried," Ceci said, comparing the highly charged atmosphere to that of the late 1960s, just before the Red Brigades leftist domestic terror group launched into action.

But political science professor Franco Pavoncello at Rome's John Cabot University said he didn't foresee a return to that era of leftist terror. □



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Delegation leaves Ivory Coast without Gbagbo

MARCO CHOWN OVED

Associated Press

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — West African leaders who delivered an ultimatum to Laurent Gbagbo to step down or face a military ouster left Ivory Coast late Tuesday without taking him into exile a month after the U.N. said he lost the disputed election. In a sign of escalating tensions in the country, the U.N. mission said that one of its peacekeepers had been wounded with a machete when a large crowd in a pro-Gbagbo neighborhood encircled a convoy and set one of its three vehicles on fire.

The regional delegation led by presidents from Sierra Leone, Cape Verde and Benin held meetings with both Gbagbo and internationally recognized winner Alassane Ouattara, then returned to meet with Gbagbo a second time late Tuesday before leaving the country.

Gbagbo, the incumbent leader who has been in power for a decade in Ivory Coast, has shown no interest in stepping aside despite the international calls for him to go. While Ouattara has been endorsed by most of the world, Gbagbo still maintains control of Ivory Coast's military and security forces.

Weeks of postelection violence have left at least 173 people dead, according to the United Nations. The toll is believed to be much higher: The U.N. said it has been unable to investigate reports of a mass grave because of restrictions on U.N. personnel movements.

There also have been growing concerns about violence targeting peacekeepers since Gbagbo called for the U.N. mission known as UNOCI to leave earlier this month, and the U.N. said Tuesday one of its peacekeepers had been wounded.

"UNOCI vigorously condemns this attack and reiterates its determination to pursue its work in the service of the Ivorian people," the U.N. mission said in a statement.

The regional leaders had hoped to persuade Gbagbo to leave Ivory Coast with them after their one-day mission, saying he would be offered asylum in neighboring countries.

The 15-nation regional bloc ECOWAS threatened to use "legitimate force" if Gbagbo does not relinquish power though it has not publicly specified a deadline. Nigeria has the strongest army in the region and is expected to play a major role if an operation is launched to oust Gbagbo.

Ouattara's camp has been confident in recent days that such help is coming.

"It's not a bluff," one senior Ouattara adviser said Monday on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

"The soldiers are coming much faster than anyone thinks."

ECOWAS has intervened in past regional disputes, including the seizing of Sierra Leone's capital in 1998 that forced military junta leaders to flee and allowed an elected president to return to power. ECOWAS also intervened in Liberia in 1990 and its forces stayed for several years. It has sent troops to Guinea-Bissau as well.

Some analysts feel an ECOWAS mission in Ivory Coast would entail a full-scale invasion, causing numerous civilian casualties.

The French government says its forces in Ivory Coast will protect French citizens but won't be making any decisions about an international military intervention.

U.S. State Department spokesman Mark Toner on Tuesday commended ECOWAS' leadership, and said that the United States was prepared "to take even stronger actions — such as financial sanctions — as needed."

"The strong, measured response from both the (African Union) and ECOWAS to the Ivorian crisis demonstrates the pre-eminent role that regional organizations play in addressing crises," he said.



West African leaders meet with Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo, right, at the Presidential palace in Abidjan, Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2010, with left to right; Benin President Boni Yayi, Cape Verde President Pedro Pires, Sierra Leone President Ernest Bai Koroma.

Associated Press

Late Tuesday, Gbagbo's allies lashed out on state television at the nations that have recognized Ouattara's representatives as Ivorian ambassadors. State television can only be seen in the largest city of Abidjan as it has been yanked from the airwaves in most of the country.

Gbagbo's government "reserves the right to apply the principle of reciprocity by ending the missions of ambassadors of the countries concerned in Ivory Coast," the communique said.

Many Ivorians are terrified of Gbagbo's security forces. Human rights groups blame them for hundreds of arrests and dozens of cases of torture and disappearances since the election.

A Gbagbo adviser has said he does not believe his supporters could be behind the violence. Gbagbo has been in power since 2000 and had already overstayed his mandate by five years when the long-delayed presidential election was finally held in October, with the runoff coming in November. The election was intended to help reunify a country that was divided by a 2002-2003 civil war into a rebel-controlled north and a loyalist south.

The U.N. was tasked with certifying the results of the

election as part of a peace agreement that ended the civil war.

While Ivory Coast was officially reunited in a 2007 peace deal, Ouattara still draws his support from the northern half of the country, where residents feel they are often treated as foreigners

within their own country by southerners.

The regional bloc ECOWAS is comprised of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. □

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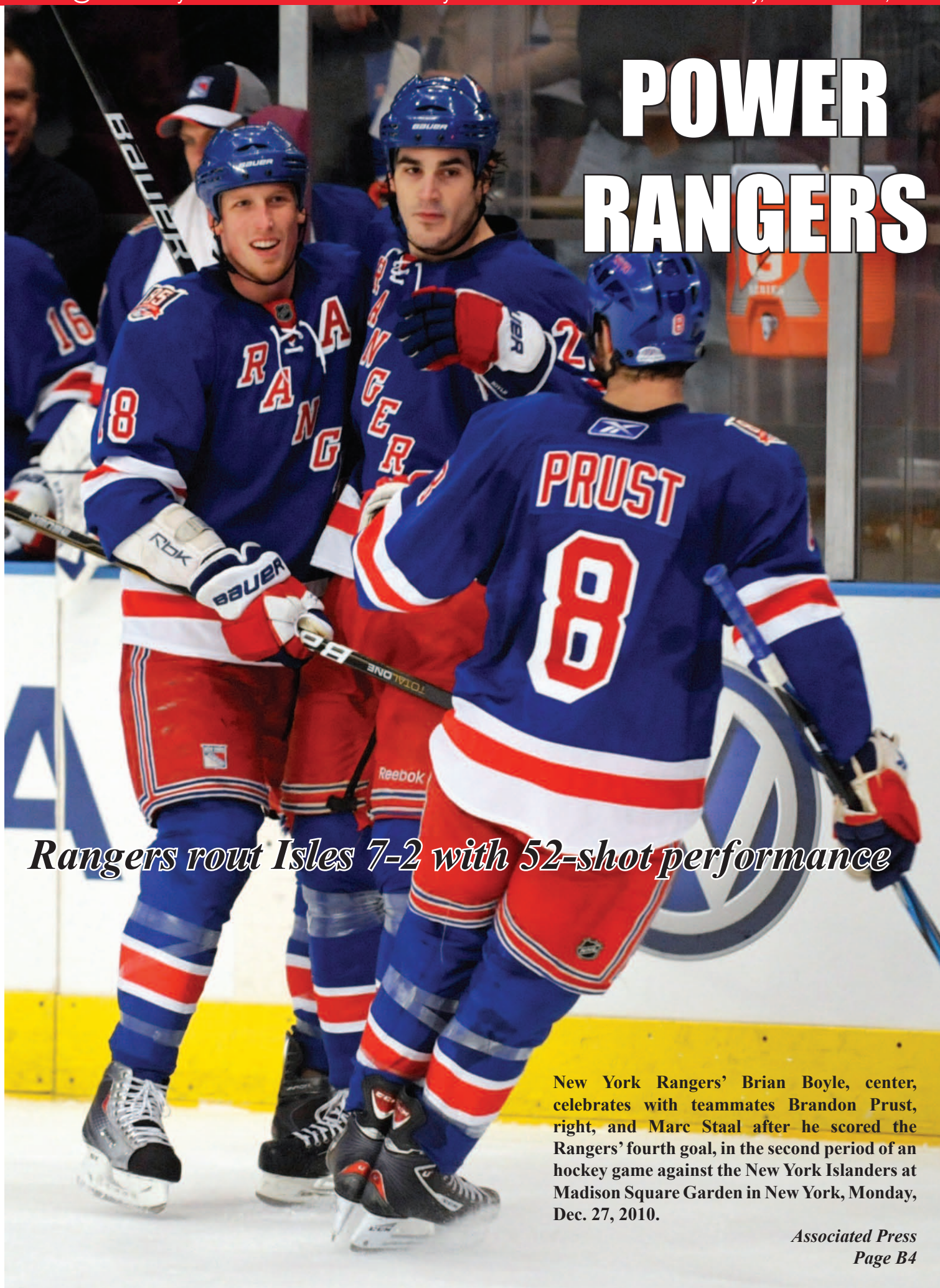
NFL donates \$1 million plus to fight cancer

NEW YORK – The NFL will donate more than \$1 million to the American Cancer Society as a result of this year's breast cancer awareness campaign. The league says those funds will support both national and local breast cancer initiatives of the American Cancer Society, which has a presence in more than 5,100 communities nationwide. Through its "A Crucial Catch" program, the NFL encourages women 40 and older to get an annual mammogram. This year's NFL donation is comprised of profits raised through the auction of special pink items, many game-worn; the sale of pink items online; and pink items sold at stadiums and retail outlets. The NFL and NFL Players Association supported October's National Breast Cancer Awareness Month with their largest on-field presence. □

Paterno: No plans to stop coaching

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POWER RANGERS



Rangers rout Isles 7-2 with 52-shot performance

New York Rangers' Brian Boyle, center, celebrates with teammates Brandon Prust, right, and Marc Staal after he scored the Rangers' fourth goal, in the second period of an hockey game against the New York Islanders at Madison Square Garden in New York, Monday, Dec. 27, 2010.

Associated Press
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Paterno: 'Honest to goodness,' no plans to quit



By FRED GOODALL

AP Sports Writer

TAMPA, Fla. — A jovial Joe Paterno insists he has no plans to stop coaching after this week's Outback Bowl.

Penn State head football coach Joe Paterno answers a question during the Outback Bowl NCAA college football media day on Friday, Dec. 10, 2010 in State College, Pa. Penn State will play Florida on New Year's Day in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

The 84-year-old Penn State coach said during a news conference Tuesday that he "honest to goodness" has not entertained thoughts of stepping down after 45 seasons leading the Nittany Lions.

Sitting beside Florida's Urban Meyer, Paterno called rumors he may quit after Saturday's game against the Gators

"ridiculous." He said he feels great and is still having fun coaching.

Paterno also said he's not happy to see Meyer leaving coaching after the Outback Bowl. Meyer announced his resignation earlier this month because of health concerns and he wants to spend more time with his family.

"I don't know Urban's situation," Paterno said when asked about Meyer walking away from a program he's led to two Southeastern Conference championships and a pair of national titles in six seasons.

"I'm being selfish when I say I hate to see guys like that leave the game," Paterno added. "To me, I'm different than Urban. I've got people calling up saying: 'When the hell are you getting out?'"

When laughter in the room subsided, Paterno continued.

"I don't know. People think I'm going to quit this year or next year. I haven't even thought of it," he said. "I honest to goodness have not thought of it."

"The situation around me is very stable. The athletic director was a kid that I recruited as a walk-on, the coaches have been with me ... the (school) president has been with us now maybe 14, 15 years. We have a lot of fun together. I don't see any reason to get out. ... I feel great."

Paterno's comments came a day after the website PennState.Scout.com quoted the coach's wife, Sue, as saying rumors about Paterno's health and future with the Nittany Lions were "lies."

"Who started the crazy rumors?" Sue Paterno said. "He's fine. No one has to identify who starts it. We don't even know where it starts."

The coach alluded to various internet speculation as well, saying there was talk back in State College, Pa., about him possibly being hospitalized in Hershey.

"Geez, Hershey Hospital? I was home chewing out somebody for being late for a meeting," Paterno, the all-time bowl wins leader with 24, said. "It's ridiculous. I don't know when I'll get out. I honestly don't know." □



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Brees shakes off INTs, leads Saints to 17-14 win

By PAUL NEWBERRY

AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Drew Brees and the New Orleans Saints showed the high-flying Atlanta Falcons they're not ready to give up their crown just yet.

That's right, Who Dat going back to the playoffs: The reigning Super Bowl champs. Facing a team that had won eight in a row and was poised to lock up the division title and home-field advantage in the NFC playoffs, New Orleans rallied for a 17-14 victory over the Falcons Monday night to clinched a return to the postseason.

Atlanta (12-3) couldn't take advantage of the national stage to silence all those skeptics who wondered if the team with the NFC's best record is really its best team.

Despite throwing a pair of costly fourth-quarter interceptions, Brees through when it counted. The reigning Super Bowl MVP led a 90-yard drive that ended with a 6-yard touchdown pass to rookie Jimmy Graham with 3:24 remaining. The Saints (11-4) sent a clear message to a team they might see again in January.

"It feels good," Brees said. "You just want to punch your ticket to the big show, and we've done that. Obviously Carolina needs to beat Atlanta next week so we can get that one seed."

The Saints proved that Atlanta is not invincible, even playing at the Georgia Dome, where the Falcons had a 19-3 record in Mike Smith's three years as coach.

"We don't want to feel this way the rest of the season,"

said Matt Ryan, who lost at home for only the second time as the Falcons' starting quarterback. "We're going to work hard to make sure we don't."

The loss doesn't ruin Atlanta's two main goals. The Falcons can still wrap up their first division crown since 2004 and home field through the NFC playoffs by knocking off two-win Carolina at home in the final week of the season.

But this one stung.

Brees completed six straight passes on a 13-play drive that won it, making up for an ill-advised attempt to flip a backhanded pass to escape heavy pressure. The throw was picked off by Chauncey Davis and returned 26 yards for a touchdown in the opening minute of the fourth — giving the Falcons their first lead all night.

It didn't last, even after Brees was picked off again on a brilliant play by defensive end John Abraham, who batted the ball high in the air then grabbed it himself.

"That's part of it," Brees said. "It's the ebb and flow of the game. Sometimes you have a clean pocket. Sometimes they're getting after you."

"In the end, we found a way to win."

After Abraham's interception, the Saints held the Falcons just past midfield, then got the ball back at their own 10. The first two plays lost a yard, but Brees connected with Lance Moore on an 18-yard pass to keep the drive going.

Brees kept on completing passes, five more in a row to lead the Saints down the field. On third-and-3 at the 6, he flicked a quick pass to Graham



New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) throws a winning touchdown pass during the fourth quarter as Atlanta Falcons Jonathan Babineaux (95) defends, in an NFL football game at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta on Monday, Dec. 27, 2010. The Saints won 17-14.

Associated Press

slanting over the middle. The rookie got a step on William Moore and Brees delivered the ball just out of the reach of Sean Weatherspoon for the touchdown.

Graham, who also played basketball at Miami, dunked it over the goalposts to celebrate.

The Saints shut down Turner, who ran for just 48 yards on 17 carries, and Ryan's two favorite receivers: Roddy White (three catches, 43 yards) and Tony Gonzalez (two receptions, 12 yards). □



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Darryl Sutter quits as GM of Calgary Flames

CALGARY, Alberta – With his team's record among the worst in the Western Conference, Darryl Sutter resigned as general manager of the Calgary Flames on Tuesday.

Assistant GM Jay Feaster was promoted to acting general manager and will be responsible for day-to-day hockey operations.

The decision could resonate within the organization. Darryl hired brother Brent in 2009 to coach the team. Another brother, Duane, is the team's director of player personnel.

Flames President Ken King lauded Darryl Sutter's eight years in the organization. Sutter was also the club's executive vice president.

"He was the leader that ignited a renaissance of Flames hockey, moving us from a nonplayoff team to an organization that was viewed as a respected and popular contender each year," King said in a statement.

King said Feaster will handle the general manager duties until season's end, and Sutter will "assist in an orderly transition."

"We believe that while we continue to compete for a playoff position this season, this period will provide both the organization and Jay time to decide on critical future decisions," King said.

Feaster joined the Flames last July. He captured a Stanley Cup as the Tampa Bay Lightning's GM in 2004 and Calder Cup championship as president of the AHL's Hershey Bears in 1997.

Entering Tuesday night's games, the Flames (16-18-3) were fourth in the Northwest Division, five points ahead of last-place Edmonton.

Sutter, a 52-year-old Albertan, joined the organization in 2002 when he was hired as coach. He became general manager the following year. He gave up the coaching job in 2006 but remained GM.

The Flames are one of the oldest teams in the NHL with an average age of nearly 30. □

NHL Roundup

Rangers win battle of New York

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Defenseman Matt Gilroy broke a long scoring drought with his first two-goal game in the NHL as the New York Rangers cooled off the surging New York Islanders with a 7-2 victory Monday night.

As the area dug out of a major blizzard that struck New York on Sunday, the Rangers handed the Islanders their first loss in four games and ended their rivals' five-game point streak (4-0-1).

Gilroy gave the Rangers a 1-0 lead just 44 seconds in and then broke a 2-2 tie in the second period against Islanders goalie Dwayne Roloson. Gilroy, replacing scratched defenseman Michael Del Zotto, had gone 64 games without a goal — dating to Nov. 28, 2009. He has six goals in 91 career NHL games.

Bruins 3, Panthers 2, SO

In Sunrise, Florida, Blake Wheeler scored the only goal in the shootout to lead Boston over Florida.

Tim Thomas, who came in leading the NHL in goals-against average and save percentage, made 32 saves. He then stopped Mike Santorelli, Stephen Weiss and Evgeny Dadonov in the shootout.

David Krejci scored both regulation goals for Boston. Michael Ryder had two assists.

David Booth and Mike Santorelli scored for the Panthers and Michael Frolik had two assists.

Blue Jackets 4, Wild 3, SO

In Columbus, Ohio, Rick Nash scored in the shootout and had two assists to lift the Blue Jackets past Minnesota. Steve Mason, who hadn't started since Dec. 16, returned to the net and stopped 37 shots.

Derick Brassard, Fedor Tyutin and Andrew Murray also scored for Columbus, which scored twice in 41 seconds to take the lead in the third period. Kyle Wilson and



York Rangers' Mats Zuccarello watches a power-play goal sail past New York Islanders goalie Dwayne Roloson in the first period of an NHL hockey game at Madison Square Garden in New York, Monday, Dec. 27, 2010. The goal was scored by Marian Gaborik.

Associated Press

Kristian Huselius also scored in the shootout.

Nash now has 206 assists to lead the Columbus franchise. He is also the club leader in goals (244) and points (450). Chuck Kobasew had a goal and assist, and Mikko Koivu and Cal Clutterbuck also scored for Minnesota, which has lost two in a row after a three-game winning streak.

Flames 5, Sabres 2

In Calgary, Jarome Iginla and Olli Jokinen scored second-period goals to lead Calgary over Buffalo.

Trailing 2-1 in the second period Jokinen's eighth goal of the season to leveled the scores, before Alex Kotalik, David Moss and Tom Kostopolous saw the Flames home.

Drew Stafford and Patrick Kaleta scored for Buffalo.

Red Wings 4, Avalanche 3

In Denver, Niklas Kronwall scored the game-winner with 1:18 remaining in overtime to give the Detroit Red Wings' a 4-3 victory over the Colorado Avalanche.

Denver goaltender Chris Osgood became the 10th goalie in NHL history to reach 400 wins and was swarmed by teammates after reaching the milestone win. The 17-year veteran has 316 of his wins with the Red Wings.

Nicklas Lidstrom, Jiri Hudler and Johan Franzen also scored for the Red Wings, who have won three of their past four games.

Matt Duchene scored twice for Colorado and T.J. Galiardi

added another.

Kings 4, Sharks 0

In San Jose, California, Trevor Lewis broke the deadlock early in the third period and Jonathan Quick made 24 saves for his fourth shutout this season, leading Los Angeles over San Jose.

Dustin Brown scored twice and former San Jose forward Marco Sturm also scored in the third as the Kings broke open the game to end a three-game losing streak to San Jose.

The Sharks looked sluggish in their first game following a three-day Christmas break, taking more than 12 minutes to put a single shot on target before the Kings scoring blitz saw an end to their four-game winning streak. □

NBA Roundup

Mavericks lose Nowitzki but still beat Oklahoma

The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks lost Dirk Nowitzki to a knee injury in the second quarter, but still did enough to beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 103-93 on Monday night for their 17th victory in 18 games.

Nowitzki, from Germany, scored 13 points before leaving in the second quarter with what the Mavericks said was a sore right knee. Shawn Marion led the effort to replace him, scoring 20 points off the bench.

Dallas improved to 11-1 on the road this season, best in the NBA, and 24-5 overall.

Kevin Durant scored 28 points, one game after a season-high 44 points on Christmas against Denver. James Harden had 18 for the Thunder. Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle also missed the game due to a knee injury. Grizzlies 96, Raptors 85

In Memphis, Tennessee, Zach Randolph scored 15 of his 21 points in the second half as the Grizzlies woke up from a slow start to beat the Raptors.

Tony Allen had 14 points and a season-high six steals, part of 15 Memphis steals on the night. Allen also had eight rebounds, also a season high. Linas Kleiza led the short-handed Raptors with 22 points on 10-of-16 shooting. DeMar DeRozan finished with 18 points.

Hawks 95, Bucks 80

In Milwaukee, Al Horford had 18 points and 12 rebounds, Joe Johnson added 15 points as the Hawks beat the Bucks.

The Hawks (20-13) were back in Milwaukee for the first time since winning a pivotal Game 6 in the first round of the playoffs last year to send the series back to Atlanta where they won to advance.

They were impressive once again, opening a double-digit lead in the first quarter and shooting 50.7 percent from the field for the game.

John Salmons scored 18 for

the Bucks, who struggled in their first home game after a successful Western Conference trip.

Magic 104, Nets 88

In Newark, New Jersey, Dwight Howard had 19 points and 13 rebounds to lead the Magic to their third straight win with a victory over the Nets.

Hedo Turkoglu scored 20 points as the Magic had six players in double figures in beating the Nets for the third time in three meetings this season.

Orlando hit a dozen 3-pointers and shot 49 percent from the field despite the team showing up less than 90 minutes before the game because one of its buses got stuck in a snow drift on the way to the venue.

Devin Harris scored 24 points to lead New Jersey, which lost for the eighth time in 11 games. Bobcats 105, Pistons 100

In Charlotte, D.J. Augustin scored 27 points, Stephen Jackson added 23 as the new-look Bobcats held on to beat the Pistons to give interim coach Paul Silas a victory in his debut. With Silas using new combinations and forcing the pace after replacing the fired Larry Brown last week, the Bobcats built a 23-point lead and then nearly wasted it all.

Ben Gordon missed two tying 3-point attempts in the closing



Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki yells after landing awkwardly during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Oklahoma City Thunder in Oklahoma City, Monday, Dec. 27, 2010. Dallas won 103-93. Nowitzki left the game with what the Mavericks said was a sore right knee.

Associated Press

seconds before Tyrus Thomas' two free throws with 1 second left finally put it away for the Bobcats, ending a four-game losing streak.

Charlie Villanueva scored 25 points on 10-of-14 shooting for the Pistons.

Timberwolves 113, Hornets 98 In Minneapolis, Michael Beasley scored 30 points, nine rebounds and a career-high seven assists to lead the Timberwolves to a victory over the stumbling Hornets.

Wes Johnson added a career-high 24 points and

made six 3-pointers for the Timberwolves, who have won back-to-back games for just the second time this season.

Chris Paul had 22 points and 13 assists for the Hornets, who lost their seventh straight road game and are 7-12 after starting the season 11-1.

Trail Blazers 96, Jazz 91

In Salt Lake City, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 26 points as the Trail Blazers halted a four-game road losing streak with a victory over the Jazz.

Deron Williams scored 31 points, including back-to-back

3-pointers that pulled the Jazz within 94-91 with 7.7 seconds left. But Andre Miller made a pair of free throws to seal the win for Portland.

The game was Matthews' first in Salt Lake since he left the Jazz for a five-year, \$34 million deal with Portland after last season.

Rockets 100, Wizards 93

In Houston, Kevin Martin scored 20 points, Shane Battier and Aaron Brooks each added 15 and the Rockets won their fifth straight game, beating the Wizards. □

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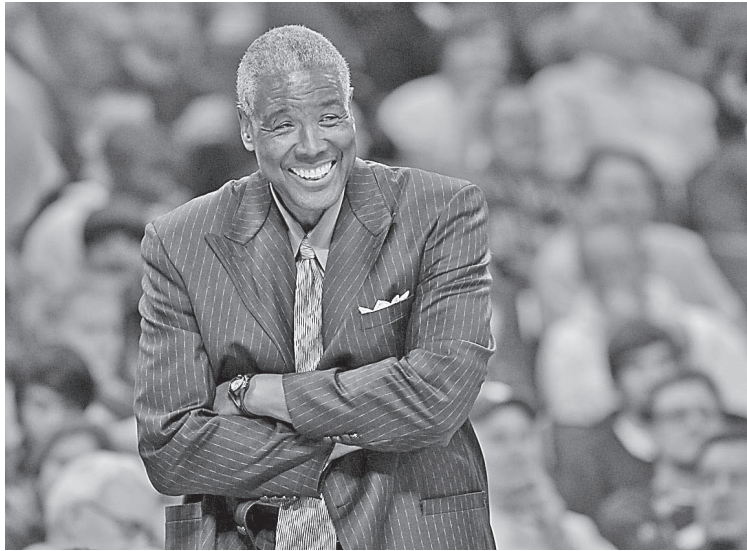
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Silas hopes to engineer 2nd Charlotte turnaround



The Charlotte Bobcats' interim coach, Paul Silas, smiles as he watches his team against the Detroit Pistons in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Monday, Dec. 27, 2010.

Associated Press

By **MIKE CRANSTON**

AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Paul Silas inherits a team with a bad record and little confidence from a coach whose frustrations had boiled over, all the while holding an interim tag.

Tough spot? Sure, but Silas has done this before — in the same city.

Things worked out pretty well in 1999 with the Charlotte Hornets. After winning his debut with the Charlotte Bobcats, Silas said Tuesday he sees plenty of similarities.

“I’ve been through this. I know what it’s about,” Silas said. “I know how to do it.” Owner Michael Jordan ended the 67-year-old Silas’ five-year retirement last week

when he lured him from his dream home on Lake Norman north of Charlotte. Jordan had just fired Larry Brown a night after another fourth-quarter meltdown left Brown again ripping his players.

“It was not a good atmosphere when I came,” Silas said.

Out of the NBA since being fired by Cleveland in 2005, Silas had a lot of work to do. He had no staff and his new team was bogged down in a stagnant offense.

Silas snatched his son, Stephen, off Golden State’s staff, then told his team to push the pace and start enjoying the game again. The immediate results were good: A 105-100 victory over Detroit in his debut Monday that snapped a four-game

losing streak.

“I think it’s more relaxed, more laid back,” said forward Gerald Wallace who sat out his fifth straight game with an ankle injury. “Guys are more comfortable. Guys are smiling more. I don’t think it’s the down mode anymore. I think guys were kind of down. It just felt like things couldn’t get better.”

One of the players who was a constant target by the irritable Brown, point guard D.J. Augustin, scored 27 points and didn’t commit a turnover.

“I was able to create more for my teammates and knock down shots,” Augustin said, gushing over the increased offensive freedom. “Just having that confidence, it feels good.”

While Charlotte (10-19) still committed 24 turnovers and nearly blew a 23-point lead, Tuesday’s practice was filled with smiles and jokes missing much of the season. And the Bobcats sat only two games out of the final playoff spot in the top-heavy Eastern Conference.

To Silas, he’s partying like it’s 1999.

“Anytime you have a losing record the way we had then and now, you have to build up the players’ confidence level, energy level and give them some freedom,” Silas said. “Now they’re free to

say things. I asked them questions about the game. What did they think? To me, that’s the whole key because you get them thinking.”

It’s the same script Silas used when he was promoted to Hornets coach after the disgruntled Dave Cowens abruptly quit following a 4-11 start amid key injuries to Glen Rice and Anthony Mason.

Silas got the Hornets rolling. They later won nine straight and finished 26-24 in a lockout-shortened year, one game shy of making the postseason.

“Turned that thing around, one game out of the playoffs,” Silas said. “Didn’t make it, but then got Baron Davis, which was a big bonus and went on from there.”

Not only did Silas get the interim tag lifted, the Hornets lucked out in the draft lottery to take a franchise point guard No. 3 overall. Silas led the Hornets to three straight playoff appearances and remained one of the few popular figures in Charlotte until the team’s ugly exit to New Orleans in 2002.

Now Silas is trying to duplicate the feat with Charlotte’s new NBA team, which was swept by Orlando in the first round of last season’s playoffs.

“It’s not easy, it’s hard. Players know you’re an

interim coach,” Silas said. “But the main thing, as I told them, respect is what it’s all about. I respect them, but certainly they’re going to respect me.”

Silas has toned down what he called a “dictatorial” coaching style when he guided the San Diego Clippers from 1980-1983. He had to wait 16 years for his next head coaching job and now he’s back after a five-year hiatus and with a head of hair that includes plenty of gray.

“I’ll probably be sitting a lot more than I used to,” Silas said, smiling. “You won’t be seeing the sweat coming down like it was.”

The Bobcats still have problems. The offense remains far from efficient and there are depth issues. Silas isn’t close to establishing a rotation and the schedule gets tougher after home games Wednesday against Cleveland and Friday vs. Golden State.

But even though he’s past retirement age, financially secure and living in his dream home, Silas hopes he can do enough to stick around for next season.

“If I needed that job next year I’d be shaking in my boots,” Silas said. “If I don’t get it, great, fine. But I believe I will if these guys do what I think they can do.” □





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Worley wins 3rd straight World Cup giant slalom

ERIC WILLEMSSEN,
Associated Press
SEMMERING, Austria (AP) — Tessa Worley of France won a third straight women's World Cup giant slalom on Tuesday, while second-place Maria Riesch overtook Lindsey Vonn at the top of the overall standings.

The 21-year-old Worley, who also won in Aspen, Colorado, and St. Moritz, Switzerland, finished her two runs on the Panorama course in an aggregate time of 2 minutes, 9.66 seconds to beat Riesch by 0.62 on Tuesday. World champion Kathrin Hoelzl took third, 0.78 behind.

"I did a very good first run but still didn't expect to win it," said Worley, who led Riesch by 0.49 after the opening run. "It's pretty difficult up there when you have to wait being the last starter. I just forced myself to think it was not a second run but just a whole new race I had to win."

Worley is still two consecutive wins away from the record held by Anja Paerson, who won five GS races in a row in 2004.

"Today, I felt a bit of pressure but I managed to shake it off by concentrating on the technical things of my skiing," Worley said.

Riesch just missed out on her first career GS victory but said she was happy with second place.

"More than 0.6 is a lot of difference and you should not be angry when finishing second," said Riesch, who also took second in a GS in Maribor last year.

Vonn, the three-time overall World Cup champion, was 1.40 behind in seventh and now trails Riesch by 41 points going into the final race of the year — a slalom in Semmering on Wednesday.

Riesch said it was "obviously very nice" to lead the standings again.

"It's even better to be there at the end of the season as that's the only time it really matters," Riesch said. "I won't spill my energy on the standings in this stage of the season."

Neither does Vonn. The American said she would love start 2011 as the forerunner, but that she doesn't expect to overtake Riesch on Wednesday.

"I don't see that happening. In slalom you never know but I am not skiing as well in slalom as in GS right now," Vonn said. "It doesn't matter. After (a Jan. 4 slalom in) Zagreb, there are a lot of downhill races. That's where I'll make my points."

Vonn was unhappy with her second run, in which she seemed to hold back.

"I was in a good position to maybe get on the podium today," said Vonn, who was sixth after the first run. "I just



France's Tessa Worley speeds down the course on her way to set the fastest time during the first run of an alpine ski, women's World Cup giant slalom, in Semmering, Austria, Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2010.

Associated Press

got too round in the middle section, I just gave the course too much respect."

Giant slalom is the only discipline lacking on Vonn's victory list, though the American is convinced it won't take long for that to change. "I am consistently skiing in the top-10 (of the GS) now and I haven't done that for the rest of my career," she said. "My confidence is there and I know what to do know. It's a matter of skiing an aggressive run from top to bottom but not overskiing and not making mistakes."

Vonn was passed by teammate Julia Mancuso, who had the second-fastest time in the final run to jump from 18th to fifth, 1.17 seconds behind Worley. Mancuso said she was disappointed after her first run, where she lost time as she was skiing far from clean in much of the steep middle part of the course.

"I knew I had to do better," Mancuso said. "I have been skiing really fast in training so it was great to do that again in the second run." Mancuso had an almost flawless final run and said "it's

just about skiing smart. I've learned that going too straight doesn't work. I had to take it a little relaxed but also charging the whole way down."

Slovenia's Tina Maze was second after the opening run but dropped to sixth, while Kathrin Zettel of Austria, who won the last two races on this course in 2006 and '08, was 1.52 back in eighth.

Olympic champion Viktoria Rebensburg, who was 28th after a massive mistake in her opening run, posted the fastest second leg and finished ninth. □



In this photo released by Rolex, the 100-foot supermaxi Wild Oats XI sails past the Organ Pipes as she races towards Hobart to claim provisional line honors during the Sydney to Hobart yacht race off Hobart in Australia Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2010.

Associated Press

HOBART, Australia (AP) — Wild Oats XI took line honors in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race for the fifth time in six years Tuesday but its victory

was uncertain because of a protest lodged by the race committee.

Skippered by Mark Richards, the 100-foot yacht crossed

Wild Oats takes line honors in Sydney-Hobart yacht race

the finish line off Hobart's Constitution Dock 2 days, 7 hours, 37 minutes, 20 seconds after leaving Sydney and almost 31 miles ahead of its nearest rival, fellow super maxi Investec Loyal.

Organizers immediately declared Wild Oats' fifth line honors win provisional pending a hearing Wednesday of a protest over a breach of race radio protocols.

Race Committee Chairman Tim Cox said the super maxi failed to have an operational HF radio as she passed

Green Cape on Monday, a compulsory reporting stage at the entrance to Bass Strait. A similar protest was lodged against the English yacht RAN.

"The race committee met this morning and considered the position of those two yachts and we believed that we needed to lodge a protest on those boats with the international jury for not complying with the sailing instruction 44.1(A)," Cox said.

The rule was introduced after

the disastrous 1998 race, hit by a massive storm in which six sailors drowned.

"From my point of view, passing Green Cape is one of the fundamental safety rules of the Sydney to Hobart yacht race," Cox said. "It's one of the breaches which I personally consider to be one of the more serious ones ... that's also shared by the members of the race committee."

In 2001, Bermudan yacht Tyco was disqualified for lodging its crew and condition report seven minutes late. □

Sports in 2010: Anything but mere triviality

JOHN LEICESTER,
AP Sports Columnist

PARIS (AP) — In the greater scheme of things, sports shouldn't really matter. Not like famine, war, natural disasters or the multitude of other agonies of our human condition that will and should always be more important than the mere trivialities of which team won and by how much. In the same vein, no athlete, no matter how lionized, will or should ever be as important as a

caring parent, an aid worker, a maternity nurse, a firefighter or the countless billions of unsung others who sustain life amid the chaos of life itself. No athlete can claim that their sporting achievements do that, which is why there will and should always be questions about whether it is right and proper that some of them are paid so obscenely well for doing what they do. And yet, in 2010, one of the few times I wept was at a sports event. Watching Canadian



In this Feb. 25, 2010 file photo, Canada's Joannie Rochette reacts after receiving her bronze medal at the women's figure skating competition at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia. Her mother, Therese Rochette, 55, died shortly after arriving in Vancouver to watch her daughter compete at her second Olympics.

Associated Press

skater Joannie Rochette glide on Olympic ice days after the death of her mother was a truly humbling and uplifting lesson in courage.

For the entirety of her bronze medal-winning free skate, I willed her to hold her emotions together, trying telepathically to say: "You can do it. You can do it."

This wasn't just out of sympathy for her, but for my own good, too. I needed Rochette to prove that there is a future after the death of a beloved parent, that life can go on. In the greater scheme things, those exquisitely anxious minutes of fretting about whether Rochette would crumble under the weight of her personal tragedy or, as she did, soar inspiringly above it should not have moved me as much as the birth, later in 2010, of my daughter. Yet, on both occasions, the tears tasted salty and curiously sweet. Sports shouldn't really matter. But they do.

In 2010, rarely was I angrier than at a sports event. When England midfielder Frank Lampard's disallowed World Cup goal against Germany slammed against the crossbar and bounced a good foot over the line, I was furious that Uruguayan referee Jorge Larrionda failed to spot the

blindingly obvious. I also was incensed at the technophobes at football's world governing body FIFA for resisting the electronic goal-line aids that could have spared Larrionda from looking like such a fool and ensured sporting justice. "It's like 1966 all over again!" I yelled to my Associated Press colleague and press box neighbor Robert Millward. Veteran sports sage that he was, Robert was already marshaling his thoughts for a story on how the injustice revived memories of the 1966 World Cup final, when Geoff Hurst's shot for England struck the underside of the German crossbar, bounced down and spun back into play. "That time," Robert penned from his encyclopedic football memory, "the referee consulted his linesman and awarded the goal."

It was one of the last stories that Robert wrote. He died suddenly three days before Spain beat the Netherlands in the World Cup final. Our efforts to revive him failed. I like to remember the frustration that he and I shared, his look of utter shock and sputtered guffaws of disbelief, over Lampard's goal that wasn't. Such passion and emotion. All for a mere game. Sports shouldn't really matter. But they do. □

2010 Toys for Tots



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Aruba TODAY

Anti-rumor law ruled unconstitutional

SEOUL – South Korea's Constitutional Court ruled Tuesday that a clause in a telecommunications law that was used to crack down on Internet rumormongers is unconstitutional.

It calls for up to five years in prison and up to 50 million won (44,000 dollars) in fines for those convicted of engaging in false communications with a view to damaging the public interest.

"The concept of public interest here is too vague, failing to inform the people of exactly where the line is drawn," the court said in a statement.

The case was brought to the constitutional court by two bloggers, including one accused of causing the country huge financial losses by spreading misleading information on the economy in 2008.

Park Dae-Sung -- better

known by his Internet alias "Minerva" -- was arrested in January 2009. He was accused of undermining the economy by spreading online rumours that the government had ordered local banks not to buy dollars in a bid to stabilise the won.

Prosecutors claimed the posting led to dollar hoarding, forcing the government hurriedly to inject two billion dollars to stabilize the currency market. They sought an 18-month prison term.

A criminal court which heard his case said it was hard to conclude that Park was aware the information was misleading when he wrote the postings, and acquitted him.

Park wrote more than 200 economic commentaries in the months before his arrest and gained a major following after correctly predicting the collapse of US investment

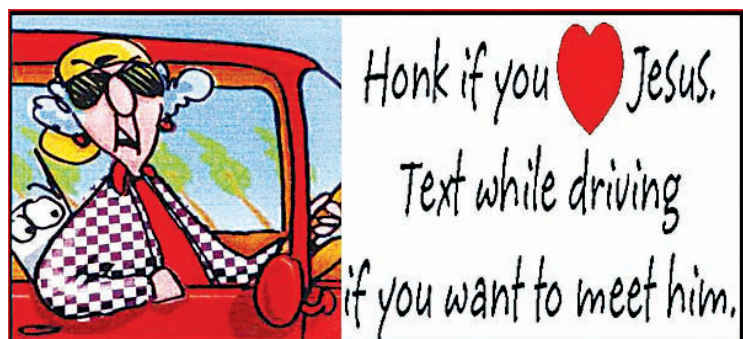


bank Lehman Brothers in September 2008.

His arrest set off a debate over freedom of speech in cyberspace in South Korea, one of the world's most wired

nations. Internet rumors fuelled street mass protests in 2008 against the lifting of a ban on US beef imports. The demonstrations later took on an anti-government flavor.

The other blogger had been jailed for 10 months for spreading false Internet rumors that police raped a demonstrator during the beef protests. □



."LOL." "Wre R U?" "Yeah." Single words, shorthand or fragments of sentences that flow from cell-phone keyboards millions of times each day. But in a few notorious cases, those words have led to carnage on the road at the hands of texting drivers, an increasingly dangerous form of distracted driving.

AT&T, the second-largest wireless carrier in the U.S. and one of the top companies putting cell phones in the hands of young drivers, is stepping up its campaign to stop the texting road menace. An 11-minute video produced by the company and released this week shows the heartbreaking consequences that can unfold in the few seconds a driver averts his or her glance from the road to a phone display.

Patrick Sims, who was 17 when he slammed into a bicyclist while texting LOL to a friend on a Denver highway in 2005, notes that if someone had asked him to close his eyes for five or six seconds while driving, he would never have done so. "But if someone said read this text ... I had done it numerous times before," he tells viewers.

The video also features a Missouri state trooper describing the scene where Mariah West, a senior one day short of high-school graduation, flew off the road and hit a divider after texting "where u at?" Friends of Mariah, who died in May 2009, recall her addiction to texting and her ability to multitask.

Widespread Problem The Department of Transportation says 5,500

Texting and Driving Don't Mix

people fell victim to distracted driving on U.S. highways last year, although that number held steady at 16 percent of all traffic fatalities after a sharp increase the previous four years. Texting is specifically banned in 30 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam, although in a controversial survey in September the Highway Loss Data Institute, which is operated by the insurance industry, suggested those bans have not reduced crashes because they are too hard to enforce. In March AT&T launched a Texting Can Wait Campaign, supported by CTIA, the international association for the wireless telecommunications industry.

AT&T says, "Of the 5,500 people killed last year due to distracted driving,

the largest proportion of fatalities occurred among young people under the age of 20."

The company cites statistics from CTIA that texting has increased tenfold over the last three years.

"Think Twice"

"This documentary is a raw look at the reality and hazards of texting while driving, and we hope it will make wireless customers think twice before pulling out their cell phones in the driver's seat," said Cathy Coughlin, senior executive vice president and global marketing officer for AT&T. "As a global telecommunications company, it is our responsibility to bring these risks to light, especially now during the holiday season and as we approach new year's eve."

Amy Storey, a spokesperson for CTIA, said, "Our members have been strong advocates for educating drivers, including teens, about the dangers of texting while driving. We support their efforts and will continue to offer our own educational materials through our On the Road, Off the Phone campaign."

After watching the video, Robert Sinclair, a spokesperson for the American Automobile Association in New York, said it's a "hard-hitting, gut-punch of a reminder of the dangers of texting while driving."

He added, "Young people must make note of the needless chances they take when they text and drive. Victims call from the grave for them to end this dangerous habit." □



THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Piano man to diaper man: Elton John becomes a dad



LOS ANGELES — Sir Elton John is holding close a new tiny dancer. The piano man and husband

David Furnish have become parents to a 7-pound,

15-ounce baby boy born on Christmas Day. The news was first reported Monday night by USMagazine.com and confirmed to The Associated Press by John's Los Angeles-based publicist.

Zachary Jackson Levon Furnish-John was born in California via a surrogate, whose identity is being protected by the new parents. Zachary is 62-year-old John's first child with the 48-year-old Furnish. The couple married in 2005.

In a joint statement, the new parents told USMagazine.com that "Zachary is healthy and doing well" and they are "overwhelmed with happiness and joy at this very special moment." □

LeAnn Rimes and Eddie Cibrian to wed



LOS ANGELES — LeAnn Rimes and Eddie Cibrian are getting married. Rimes' publicist, Rhett Usry, confirmed Tuesday that the country singer and the actor "were engaged over the holidays and are very happy."

Both were married to other people when they fell in love with each other. Rimes, 28, and Cibrian, 37, co-starred in the 2009 Lifetime original TV movie "Northern Lights."

Cibrian's divorce from his wife of eight years was finalized in October. Rimes' husband filed for divorce a year ago. Irreconcilable differences was listed as the reason for both previous marriages ending. □

MTV 'Teen Mom' star faces domestic battery charges

ANDERSON, Ind. — Monday and jailed under a Prosecutors in central Indiana have filed felony domestic battery and child neglect charges against a star of the MTV reality show "Teen Mom."

Anderson police began investigating 20-year-old Amber Portwood after a September episode showed her slapping, choking and kicking the 24-year-old father of her daughter. Portwood was arrested

Detective Mitch Carroll tells The Herald Bulletin that the child neglect charges stem from Portwood's then-1-year-old daughter being present during two filmed instances of domestic violence.

The Associated Press left a telephone message seeking comment Tuesday at the office of Portwood's attorney Robert Schembs.



Anne Houseworth of the Indiana Department of Child Services said dozens

of viewers called the state's child abuse hotline to report Portwood's outbursts. □



Flaming Lips promise "out of control" New Year's eve show

LOS ANGELES — When the Flaming Lips play their fourth annual New Year's Eve Freakout concert in their Oklahoma City hometown on Friday, fans will be barraged with "20 times more balloons and confetti" than at regular shows, lead singer Wayne Coyne said.

Coyne says the group must up the ante because of the high standard of wackiness he and his bandmates set for themselves during the rest of the year.

"Our show is kind of like a New Year's Eve show when it's not New Year's Eve. So when we do a New Year's Eve show, it's out of control," he told The Hollywood Reporter. "The audience, I think, want that. They're on acid and they're on mushrooms and on DMT (dimethyltryptamine, a hallucinogenic) and they want this over-the-top experience."

Stardeath and White Dwarves, a rock band fronted by Coyne's nephew Dennis Coyne, opens the show, taking place at the Cox Convention Center. The Flaming Lips will play their 1999 album, "The Soft Bulletin," in its entirety after midnight. □



European anarchists grow more violent, coordinated

ROME — A loosely linked movement of European anarchists who want to bring down state and financial institutions is becoming more violent and coordinated after decades out of the spotlight, and may be responding to social tensions spawned by the continent's financial crisis, security experts say.

Italian police said Tuesday that letter bombs were sent to three embassies in Rome by Italian anarchists in solidarity with jailed Greek anarchists, who had asked their comrades to organize and coordinate a global "revolutionary war." Identical package bombs exploded at the Swiss and Chilean embassies in Rome on Dec. 23, badly wounding the two people who opened them. A third bomb was safely defused at the Greek Embassy on Monday.

"We're striking again, and

we do so in response to the appeal launched by our Greek companions," the Italian group known as the Informal Anarchist Federation wrote in a claim of responsibility for the third bomb that was released by police here Tuesday.

Extreme left-wing and anarchist movements have existed for decades in Europe waging deadly attacks across the continent in the 1960s and 1970s that trailed and became sporadic in recent decades. Officials, meanwhile, focused far more intensely on the threat of Islamist terrorism.

But the European Union's police agency, Europol, reported this year that attacks by far-left and anarchist militant groups jumped by 43 percent in 2009 compared to the previous year, and more than doubled over 2007, with most of the incidents in Italy, Spain and Greece.

Spain and Greece have been hit particularly hard by government cutbacks and unemployment resulting from a continentwide debt crisis. Italy has also been growing tense in recent months in response to austerity measures and a political duel between Premier Silvio Berlusconi and a former ally that for weeks threatened the government's survival.

Last month, 14 letter bombs were mailed to embassies in Athens by a Greek group that urged stepped-up attacks by anarchists worldwide. Two of the devices exploded, causing no injuries.

"Anarchists-insurrectionists work to try to raise the level of clashes when there are problems" said Marco Boschi, a criminologist who teaches a course on terrorism at the University of Florence and has written about anarchists.



"They exploit every occasion." A Greek group calling itself the Conspiracy Nuclei of Fire claimed responsibility for sending the 14 mail bombs in Athens.

Panagiotis Argyros, 22 and Gerasimos Tsakalos, 24, were arrested on Nov. 1 in connection with the mailings and were charged with terrorism-related offenses. At least a dozen suspected members of their group are due to go on trial Jan. 17 for other offenses.

The Conspiracy Nuclei of Fire called on militants around Europe to step up their actions before the trial.

"We will organize internationally and take aim at the enemy. We can't wait

to see the subversive elements flooding the streets and the guerrilla groups striking again and again," the group wrote. But European anarchists are not always in step.

The solidarity boasted by the Italian anarchists who targeted the Rome embassies apparently irritated a Greek militant group, whose membership included Lambros Foundas, who was killed in a shootout with police in Athens earlier this year.

Three imprisoned members of Revolutionary Struggle claimed in a communique Tuesday evening that their group never carries out actions "that would result in the injury of someone, like a random embassy official." □

Investor doubts linger over holiday sales upside

NEW YORK New sales data confirm that retailers are poised to show their best holiday season in three years, but investors seemed unimpressed as concerns mount that shoppers will pull back in the new year.

Retail sales rose 4.8 percent for the week ending with Christmas Day, December 25, compared with the year-earlier period, according to data released on Tuesday by the International Council of Shopping Centers and Goldman Sachs.

That puts retail sales for November and December on track to rise 4 percent compared with a year ago, and hit the high end of a holiday forecast range that ICSC and Goldman had already raised two weeks ago on the strength of November sales.

Separately, MasterCard's SpendingPulse said retail and services sales were up 5.5 percent for the period between November 5 and December 24, led by a surge in spending on clothing and jewelry. That compares with a 4.1 percent increase in 2009.

A more detailed picture of how store chains from Target Corp to Macy's Inc fared during the holiday season is expected on January 6, when many retailers report comparable store sales results for December.

Shoppers might be spending more freely this

year, but they remain worried about the job market with unemployment hovering near the 10 percent mark.

In the latest snapshot of consumer attitudes released on Tuesday, consumer confidence deteriorated unexpectedly last month, while prices of U.S. single-family homes fell almost double the expected pace in October.

The Standard & Poor's Retail Index was down 0.2 percent on Tuesday, while the broader S&P 500 was up 0.15 percent. The S&P Retail Index hit a 3-1/2 year high, but analysts question whether store chains can keep their hot streak going.

"The stocks have had great runs going into end of the year," said Nomura Securities analyst Paul Lejuez. "Any negative point provides investors a reason to take some money off the table," such as the consumer confidence data. Shoppers themselves have signaled they will cut back after the holidays, and a fierce blizzard on the U.S. East Coast just after Christmas may have already dampened their appetite for extra spending.

ICSC chief economist Michael Niemira told Reuters the snowstorm could lower the December sales growth rate by half of one percentage point, though some purchases may show up in January. □

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There is a mossy carpet on the clay ground of our garden. My garden has been too wet lately. After 62 years on the "Island where I enjoyed providing consultations to our patients it never rains," this year,

Aruba has seen rain nearly every day for months. Aruba is not the only location to see an environmental change. Globally, we are already witnessing a steady rise in average temperatures both on land and sea; a temperature rise that is changing our weather.

Climate change threatens my beloved garden consultation room, but the orchids and garden plants are thriving like never before. That this beauty comes with a water savings is an added bonus. In other words, change is not all bad.

Change

Traditional Chinese Medicine teaches us that "The universe is change; our life is what our thoughts make it". So, it is how we personally handle the changes in our lives that define the success of our existence. Further, Chinese medical philosophical work uses the metaphor of water as the ideal agent of change. Very relevant to the rain we have been receiving all these months. For our friends further north, snow is frozen water. Water, although soft and yielding, will eventually wear away stone. In other words, in the past

Aruban's were happy not to own a raincoat or do more than the minimum to secure our roofs. Now, climate change has forced us to make personal changes for safety, health and comfort. Will you struggle to hold onto the ever corroding rock or go with the flow and find new ways to blossom and grow?

May the New Year 2011 find you and your family with the health and flexibility to easily adapt to all life's changes.

Dr. Carlos & Phyllis Viana & all the staff at Viana Healing Center

Many Parents Frown on Kids' Internet Use, Survey Says

Many American parents view television and the Internet with the same concern and are using similar methods to limit their children's use of both mediums, suggests a new survey. About 57 percent of households restrict Internet use as a way to punish children, a rate similar to the 60 percent of households that restrict TV as a form of punishment, according to the survey of 1,926 Americans over age 12 conducted by the Center for the Digital Future at the University of Southern California. Many parents also say Internet access at home is reducing the amount of time their children spend in person with friends, found the survey, conducted online and by phone. The survey also confirmed a sharp drop in family face-to-face time, or "face time," in Internet-connected households. During the first half of the decade, personal contact in families averaged 26 hours a week. That fell to just less than 18 hours a week by 2010. This trend is likely because of increased involvement in online communities, according

to Michael Gilbert, a senior fellow at the center. Previous center surveys suggest that about half of people involved in an online community value it as highly as their real world communities. "With all the digital diversions out there, it's hard to pin this on any one thing," but it seems clear that online social networks are replacing family face time, Gilbert said in a USC news release. "We need to make sure families are reinforced rather than weakened in the digital future," he added. The survey findings confirm the center's predictions about rising parental displeasure with the Internet, says center director Jeffrey Cole. While families have turned many technological advances, such as the telephone, to their advantage, the interactive demands of online social networks and digital technology can cause extraordinary stress for families, Cole noted.

Cancer Patients Who Smoke Report More Severe Pain

Cancer patients who smoke suffer worse pain than nonsmokers, researchers have found. The new study included 224 patients with a range of cancer diagnoses who were asked to provide information about pain severity, pain-related distress and pain-related interference. Patients who were current smokers reported more severe pain than those who never smoked and also reported more interference from pain than never smokers or former smokers. Among former smokers, the longer it had been since they quit, the less pain they had, according to lead investigator Joseph W. Ditte, of the psychology department at Texas A&M University, and colleagues. The results of the study are published in the January 2011 issue of the journal Pain. "Clinicians must do more to assist cancer patients to quit smoking after their diagnosis," Dr. Lori Bastian, of the department of internal medicine at Duke University, Durham, N.C., and the Durham VA Medical Center, wrote in a commentary accompanying the report. "Although more research is needed to understand the mechanisms that relate nicotine to pain, physicians should aggressively promote smoking cessation among cancer patients," she noted in a journal news release. "Preliminary findings suggest that smoking cessation will improve the overall treatment response and quality of life."

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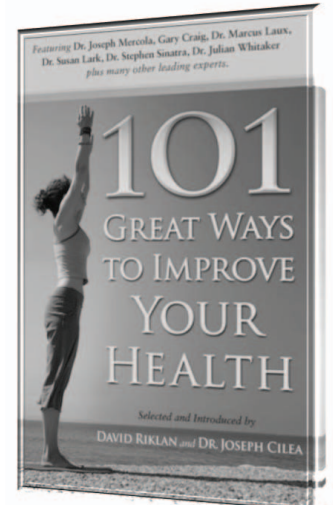
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Keeping Smartphones Safe from Wintry Chill



If you must go outdoors in frigid weather, bundling up is a must both for you and your smartphone. Here are some ways to keep your mobile device safe from the dangers of extreme cold. First, Verizon Wireless warns cell phone users to keep their phones fully charged. "Cold temperatures can run down the phone's battery charge more quickly," according to Verizon Wireless. "Use a car charger to keep the phone's charge if you get stranded or stuck in traffic on icy or

snowy roads. Think about an extra battery as backup." Phones in frigid temperatures should also be handled with care: "The display screen can become brittle when exposed to cold temperatures for long periods of time," Verizon added. Mobile devices should be kept in a warm place, preferably in an inside jacket pocket that holds in the body's heat. Getting creative For those who need to use their touch-sensitive phones outside, it's no secret that it's

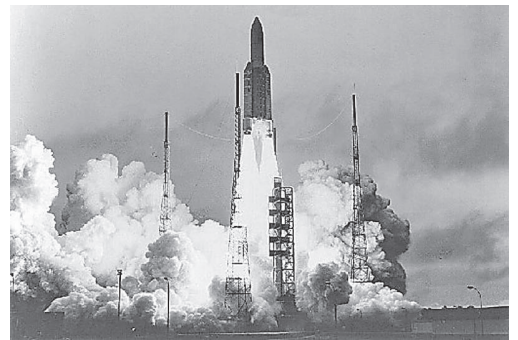
difficult to do so with gloves. In addition to traditional finger flip gloves, a new trend on the market includes small discs called Digits, which you pin to your glove fingers so you can tap away at your iPhone touch screen and other devices without removing the gloves. Digits are mini-pins made of conductive silicone, with a metal pin on the back for attaching to your glove. A four-pack can be purchased from Quirky.com for \$13.99. Another fun way to avoid

frozen fingers is with a new app called NoseDial, which lets you dial your iPhone with your nose. For 99 cents, users can adjust the size of the buttons to match their nose size. Meanwhile, in South Korea, people commuting in the cold have embraced an unlikely tool to help them use their phones and iPods: Sausages. In fact, last year the CJ Corp. reported a big jump in sales of frozen sausages, thanks to those people who used them as

an extension of their fingers. And for those indoors who want a glimpse at how cold it is outdoors, there's a wallpaper app for Android users called How Cold Is It? The app changes color depending on the temperature outside: It's deep red when hot and icy white when freezing. iPhone Addictive, Survey Reveals 10 Cool Asian Cell Phone Features You Can't Have - Yet. Verizon Will Sell the iPhone in 2011. □

Ariane rocket launch postponed because of winds

CAYENNE, French Guiana – The launch of a European Ariane rocket carrying two satellites was postponed because of strong winds high above French Guiana on Tuesday, space officials said. The rocket was due to launch from the European Space Agency's launch site in Kourou, French Guiana on the northeast coast of South America carrying the Hispasat 1E satellite for Spanish telecoms operator Hispasat and Koreasat 6 for South Korea's Korea Telecom. "We are unable to authorize a launch tonight because of the high altitude winds," Joel Barre, Director of



The Guiana Space Center said. He said a new attempt to launch the rocket would be made on Wednesday. High altitude winds can cause debris from the rocket to fall on populated areas.

SOHO Spacecraft Discovers Its 2,000th Comet

As people on Earth prepare to mark the passage of another year, a sun-studying spacecraft has quietly reached a big milestone of its own: discovering its 2,000th comet. The Solar and Heliospheric Observatory, a probe operated jointly by NASA and the European Space Agency,

detected comet No. 2,000 on Dec. 26. SOHO, which draws on help from citizen scientists around the world, is the single greatest comet-finder of all time, researchers said. [Image of comet No. 2,000] This is an impressive show of versatility, since SOHO was designed to monitor the sun,

not look for comets. "Since it launched on December 2, 1995, to observe the sun, SOHO has more than doubled the number of comets for which orbits have been determined over the last 300 years," Joe Gurman, the U.S. project scientist for SOHO at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., said in a statement. Amateur astronomers helping out SOHO itself does not really discover comets. Scores of amateur astronomer volunteers make the finds, after poring over the pictures produced by SOHO's cameras. More than 70 people from 18 different countries have helped spot comets over the last 15 years by searching through the publicly available SOHO images online, NASA officials said. Comets No. 1,999 and 2,000 were both discovered on Dec. 26 by Michal Kusiak, an astronomy student at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. □

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Lula deja como legado un Brasil renovado

SAO PAULO (AP) - Luego de poner sus inflamados tobillos sobre un desvencijado sofá, Dilma de Lima, de 72 años, reflexiona sobre una vida de pobreza en las favelas y el humilde apartamento construido por el gobierno al que ahora llama hogar. "La vida nunca ha sido mejor", dijo Lima con el resoplido característico de la bronquitis. "Todo mi agradecimiento es para Lula, el salvador de los pobres". Lula, por supuesto, es Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, el preciado mandatario brasileño y primer presidente surgido de la clase trabajadora que termina su segundo periodo cuatrienal de gobierno el primero de enero, cuando traspasará el poder a la sucesora que él mismo eligió, Dilma Rousseff, una tecnócrata de carrera que ganó las elecciones presidenciales gracias a las tasas de aprobación récord de

su mentor. Silva, de 65 años, deja un Brasil que dejó de ser una nación malograda para convertirse en una figura con nueva influencia política y económica, programas sociales modelo y que se vanagloria de ser la sede de la Copa Mundial del 2014 y los Juegos Olímpicos del 2016. Desde que Lula fue elegido presidente por primera vez en el 2002, la clase media creció en 29 millones de personas más que la población de Texas, lo que creó un nuevo y poderoso mercado interno de consumo. Otros 20 millones de personas las mismas que habitan el estado de Nueva York salieron de la pobreza. El país que recibió un rescate récord de 30.000 millones de dólares del Fondo Monetario Internacional cuando estaba al borde del colapso económico en el 2002 es ahora acreedor del FMI, con un aporte de 5.000 millones de dólares



El presidente brasileño Luis Inacio Lula Da Silva usando la cámara de su fotógrafo personal mientras esperaba la llegada del presidente ruso Dmitri Medvedev. (Foto AP/Andre Penner)

disponibles para préstamos a otras naciones. Otros sólo pueden soñar con tener los logros de Lula: la moneda brasileña se ha apreciado 107% en su paridad con el dólar estadounidense. La desigualdad se ha reducido, ya que el ingreso del 10% más pobre de su población ha crecido seis veces más rápido que el del 10% más rico. La inflación está bajo control, el desempleo está en un nivel mínimo y el analfabetismo ha disminuido. Para cuando Brasil reciba los Olímpicos, se prevé que sea la quinta economía más grande del mundo, por encima de Italia, Gran Bretaña y Francia. □

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